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SF 550 Praying Toward Purpose

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Johnson, Reginald, "SF 550 Praying Toward Purpose" (2003). *Syllabi*. Book 1668.
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SPRING 2003 TUTORIAL IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SF 550)
1 Credit Hour

“PRAYING TOWARD PURPOSE”

February 21-22, 2003

In 1991, Margaret M. Poloma and George H. Gallup, Jr., published their book, *Varieties of Prayer*. It was a study of a Gallup survey on Religion in American Life. Specifically, it examined the importance of prayer in the lives of Americans. The authors observed: “It is...accurate to say that most Americans, while believing in prayer, are desperately in need of help in understanding and practicing prayer.” In the decade since those words were written a “prayer movement” has emerged in North America with multifaceted expressions including: national prayer coalitions, united prayer events, churches with prayer coordinators or “prayer pastors,” and a multitude of prayer ministries. Most are committed to mobilizing the church for prayer. Many are also committed to helping people understand prayer. We believe that it is important for seminarians to have the opportunity to hear from national and international leaders in the prayer movement in order to discover what is happening “in the field,” experience intensive teaching on prayer, to reflect theologically on the ideas presented, and to respond to God’s invitation to pray. Each year we invite a prayer leader to campus for a workshop and use this as an opportunity for this kind of creative engagement.

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(By faculty standards a one-hour seminar requires 12 hours of contact time and approximately 48 hours of investment on the part of the student. This seminar involves attending a Friday evening and day-long Saturday workshop as the contact portion of the class. The readings and the assigned paper will complete the remaining hours that are expected.)

Required Assignments:

- Read the assigned texts.
Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick, *Prayerwalking*
W. Bingham Hunter, *The God Who Hears*
Richard Foster, *Prayer, The Heart's True Home*
- Attend each of the seminar sessions that will be held in McKenna Chapel on Friday evening, February 21, and all day Saturday, February 22.
(Our speaker for the seminar this year is Steve Kendrick, director of WayMakers, a mission and prayer mobilization ministry. He founded the research and mobilization effort called “Joshua Project,” leading exploration teams in Asia and the Middle East. Steve has co-authored with Graham Kendrick the book *Prayerwalking: Praying On-Site with Insight*. His book, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, co-edited with Dr. Ralph Winter, has been widely used as a text in many schools and training programs.

He served as editor of the book, *Stepping Out: a Guide to Short Term Missions*, a handbook for short-term mission service.)

- Hand in a copy of your notes from the seminar as evidence of your attendance and as part of the written requirements for this class. These notes will be attached to your reflection paper (see below)

Turn in a 8-10 page reflection paper that integrates the seminar and texts, specifying what emerged for you as discoveries, distilling your theology of intercession, identifying the questions which you are still processing, and speculating about how you might incorporate some of the ideas to which you were exposed into your own life and ministry. Write cogently and succinctly, being intentional about referring to specific pages in texts and statements from the presenter, rather than over-generalizing your responses. *This paper will be due by _____*. All work will be read, evaluated and returned.